



State of Tennessee

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 466

By Senators Berke, Watson

and

Representatives Dean, McCormick, Brown, Favors, Floyd

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Leroy Phillips, Jr., of Chattanooga.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Leroy Phillips, Jr., of Chattanooga; and

WHEREAS, Leroy Phillips was an exemplary public servant and consummate professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Phillips attended H. Clay Evans Elementary School, Dickinson Junior High School, and City High School; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Phillips attended Lincoln Memorial University and decided after one semester to transfer to the University of Tennessee (UT), at which he felt he would receive a broader education; he earned his undergraduate degree and then attended UT's Law School; and

WHEREAS, he returned to Chattanooga in 1961 and was hired by attorney Crawford Bean; Mr. Phillips was made a partner and, over the course of his fifteen-year tenure, the firm became Bean, Payne, and Phillips; and

WHEREAS, when Mr. Bean's sons came into the practice, Leroy Phillips established his own law practice, and he hired a young associate, Marty Levitt, to join with him; and

WHEREAS, in 1988, Mr. Phillips joined a practice with Mike Caputo in the same building that was occupied by Mr. Levitt and his brother, Lloyd Levitt; and

WHEREAS, Leroy Phillips said his most memorable case was the murder trial of Bobby Hoppe, a former Auburn University star running back who had been charged with a long-unsolved murder in North Chattanooga. Mr. Phillips worked with famed lawyer, Bobby Lee Cook, of Summerville, Georgia, and the two expert attorneys deftly produced a favorable result for their client; and

WHEREAS, another memorable case was when he represented a defendant charged in a cross-burning and shooting on MLK Boulevard; Mr. Phillips said the State and the National Advancement for the Association of Colored People were going for a stiff sentence, but he was able to get the charges reduced to assault and battery by showing that the defendant was not a member of the Ku Klux Klan and that the people who were hit by the shots that bounced off the pavement were not seriously injured; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Phillips gained a measure of fame when he co-authored a book about an early Chattanooga lynching and was invited to speak before several prestigious law groups; and

WHEREAS, Leroy Phillips leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Leroy Phillips, Jr., reflecting fondly upon his impeccable character and his stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Mr. Phillips.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.

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ADOPTED: May 21, 2011



RON RAMSEY
SPEAKER OF THE SENATE



BETH HARWELL, SPEAKER
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APPROVED this 2nd day of June 2011



BILL HASLAM, GOVERNOR